



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

July 23, 2014  
7:00 p.m.  
Sister Cities Room 1101

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Mayor William Euille, Councilman Tim Lovain, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, Nathan Macek, and Monica Starnes

**Staff Present:** Karen Callaham – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Allan Fye – T&ES, Marti Reinfeld – T&ES, Susan Eddy – P&Z

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Mr. Macek acknowledged a group of boy scouts from Alexandria Troop 129 attending the meeting to fulfill a Communications merit badge.

#### **1. June 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Nathan Macek asked for changes or edits to the June 18, 2014 minutes. He offered corrections to item 3, and that it should be refer to *Sanger Avenue and I-395* and not *Sanger Avenue and I-495*. Also in item 5, Chair Macek's noted that his comments should refer not only to the Route 1 Transitway and HOV lanes but Washington Street HOV lanes. There being no additional edits, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry King, seconded by Monica Starnes, and voted on and unanimously approved.

#### **2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)**

The Commission received a Funding Update, and updates on Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Route 1 Transitway, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, and Eisenhower West Transportation Study. Chair Macek asked Kevin Posey, the Transportation Commission's designee to the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Group, to give an update on that group's activities. Mr. Posey stated their initial meeting provided project background. He also stated there was tension regarding the Royal Street bicycle project, and that it was erroneously reported as cancelled. Mr. Posey also reported discussions regarding the City following the State's guideline for allowing bicyclists on sidewalks. The consensus was that there needs to be a carving out of space for pedestrians and bicyclists within the right of way. Mr. Posey also suggested that the City consider National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidelines. There were no additional requests to discuss any other staff updates. The Commission accepted the updates.

### **3. West End Transitway**

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld introduced Allan Fye as the new Project Manager for the West End Transitway. Mr. Fye gave an update on the West End Transitway Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment (AA/EA). He spoke about ongoing and planned public outreach and stakeholder coordination. Previous outreach included a July 16, 2014 event at the Van Dorn Plaza Shopping Center and a July 17, 2014 event at the Van Dorn Metro Station. He stated the next public meeting would be in October 2014 and that the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) established by Council has their first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 2014. The AA/EA process will be carrying forward the work of the Transitway Corridors Feasibility Study. The AA/EA has identified several issues that require additional analysis and policy decisions by the City. Mr. Fye revealed the eight design options and discussed recommendations based on analysis provided by the consultant team, discussion with City staff, and project team members. Section 106 / Cultural Resources Analysis is one element of the EA process that documents the historic and cultural resources along the corridor and recommends mitigation strategies, if necessary. This effort will require extensive coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Mr. Fye stated that this is scheduled to begin in August 2014. Chair Macek said the Transportation Commission received a letter from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (BPAC) regarding the incorporation of Complete Streets principles into projects and assurances that access to transit for pedestrians and bicyclists be an integral part of the West End Transitway. Chair Macek asked staff how that was being addressed in the study. Mr. Fye reported that the needs laid out in the letter are issues that are a priority of City staff as well. He went on to give examples how staff is mindful to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclist paths across the corridor.

### **4. Commission Updates**

Councilman Lovain reported he was given permission to start new grant rounds and begin solicitation in August for the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for seniors and those with disabilities by the Transportation Planning Board. He will be attending a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) retreat on July 26, 2014 to discuss how all the regional plans fit together. MAP-21 requires all metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to have transit representation.

### **5. 2014 Transportation Long Range Plan**

T&ES staff Sandra Marks and Steve Sindiong gave an update of the draft 2014 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP). To apprise those who are unaware, the LRP is an unconstrained list of unfunded capital transportation projects, programs and studies. The Project Matrix is a constrained list of transportation projects for which full or partial funding has been identified. Projects are only on one list. At the last meeting, staff proposed to remove the "Programs" element of the LRP since these programs are now generally covered through the City's Complete Streets program. Also at the last meeting, the Commission requested that staff review additional information on the need for the project to redesign intersection of Mt. Vernon Avenue at Four Mile Road. However, the project is no longer supported by staff and is recommending the removal of this project from the "Projects" list. A public hearing on the LRP update will be held during the September 17, 2014 Commission meeting, and a recommendation on the LRP update is anticipated following the public hearing. Chair Macek recommended that the Livability criteria scores on the matrix be adjusted and if there is a consensus among Commissioners, that adjustment could lead to a reordering of the projects. After discussions among Commissioners and staff, Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to rescore the two livability criteria of the Royal Street Bikeway, each to 4.5, and move the Glebe Road Bridge and the Four Mile Road

Pedestrian Bridge and the Eisenhower Metro platform projects to the study list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starnes, voted on and unanimously approved.

**6. RSTP/CMAQ Update and Priority Setting**

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld gave an update on the FY2015 – FY2020 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) project funding requests. She reiterated that CMAQ funds are allocated to metropolitan regions that do not meet Clean Air Act regulations. These funds must be used for activities that improve air quality only. RSTP funds are flexible funds that can be used for a wide range of regional transportation activities. The annual funding allocations for the entire region typically total approximately \$30 million for CMAQ funds and \$40 million for RSTP funds. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) distributes the funds to the jurisdictions based on jurisdiction requests. For the last two years, a six-year plan has been approved by the Transportation Commission and Council and forwarded to NVTA. After the submission to NVTA in 2013, several external circumstances resulted in changes to the proposed program. As a result, staff recommended funding DASH vehicle purchases using NVTA 30% funds and transferring existing CMAQ funds from DASH vehicle purchases to other eligible projects, including Backlick Run, Old Cameron Run, and future phases of ITS Integration. Staff submitted a request for several transfers in June 2014 that require NVTA approval. The request also included transfers that would better align the program with the September 2013 program recommended by the Transportation Commission.

**7. Transportation Commission Structure**

Chair Macek suggested that the Commission have a discussion regarding the future structure of the Commission, to determine if it is feasible to add additional at large citizen representatives to the Transportation Commission. Having additional members would allow for greater participation of Commission members to serve on the various committees or follow the regional planning efforts. Commissioner Starnes made a motion to request City Council to receive their endorsement to change the membership of the Commission by adding one at large citizen east of Quaker Lane and a at large citizen west of Quaker Lane. Upon receiving an endorsement from Council, an ordinance will be needed to amend the code, and receive approval from the City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved.

**8. Other Business**

The Transportation Commission Annual Report was written by staff, edited by Chair Macek and circulated among Commissioners. Chair Macek asked for any edits, comments or changes to the report. There being no edits, Commissioner King made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek, voted on and unanimously approved.

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong handed out an updated Commission Work Plan, which provides an overview of all of the agenda items to be brought to the Commission over the entire year. It is staff's goal to update the Work Plan on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner King, and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.